

From: Gale
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 8:58am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam -

I am writing you to let you know my opinion about the Microsoft pending settlement. The courts need to do whatever possible to see that this settlement goes through. Microsoft has done some things that may have hurt competition, but the consumers have done nothing but benefit from their products and practices. Consumers are being hurt so much more by all the litigation that is going on. What Microsoft has done for the consumer is force all software companies to make their products compatible with each other, make them easier to use and offer more features. The monopolistic practices may have hurt competition in the long run, but us consumers are much better off right now. The only people really standing to benefit from further litigation and/or a more stringent ruling against Microsoft is Microsoft's competitors. If this is truly a case to protect consumers, then protect us by allowing this settlement to go through and forcing other states not signing it to settle quickly. If competitors' products are as good as what Microsoft produces, let the capitalistic marketplace benefit these companies. Having the government assist them in gaining market share will not benefit consumers.

Thank you,
Gale Dahlager
Co-Owner (and bookkeeper) of Razor Rock Racing
(bicycle component manufacturer)